CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL [redacted] 25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [redacted] 25X1A

SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Georgian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 18 Feb 1952

SUBJECT Transcaucasian Metallurgical Plant near Rustavi

NO. OF PAGES 3

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PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. 20 (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. [redacted]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

25X1X

[redacted]

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT 50

[redacted] THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

[redacted]

1. The open-hearth plant was located in the southeastern section of the metallurgical works east of Rustavi (45°01'E/41°34'N), Georgian SSR. Its construction was started in 1945. In the main building of the open-hearth plant, which was a steel and brick structure, only a section 100x35 meters with a smokestack 80 meters high and a power plant was completed by the end of 1949. The second smokestack, whose masonry was not completed, collapsed during a storm in the summer of 1949. An iron charging platform extended through the wall at a height of 5 meters. Construction work was already under way in 1949 for a proposed expansion to the open-hearth plant. One source stated that the shop was to eventually measure 300 x 35 x 20 meters while another source reported the proposed dimensions to be 350 x 175 x 45 meters.

2. The open-hearth section was equipped with two charging or casting pits measuring 12 x 4 meters at the bottom and 14 x 5 meters at the top. The pits were 3 meters deep. The furnace under each pit was 6 meters in diameter and 9 meters high and extended 4 meters above ground. Furnaces and charging pits were covered with screwed steel plates. The brickwork of the charging pits consisted of numerous layers which had a total thickness of 1½ meters. The four charging doors, each of them 1½ meters square, were on the northern side of the pits. The tap hole was in the middle above the two furnaces. A total of six charging pits and 12 furnaces was scheduled for installation after completion of the proposed expansion of the main building. One source reported that Soviet workers said one open-hearth furnace had a capacity of 150 tons. Another source stated the furnaces had a capacity of 70 to 80 tons each and were to be fired by blast furnace exhaust gases and masut. Two tracks ran through the plant. In addition there was one charging crane and two traveling cranes with a lift capacity of 100 tons each. *

3. Slow progress was made in the construction of the open-hearth section because many constructional errors were discovered. The open-hearth section was scheduled to start operating about 9 November 1949. One source reported that only two furnaces were installed by November 1949, while another source stated that four furnaces were completed by the end of 1949 and foundations for four more furnaces were installed. Production had not started in any [redacted] the end of 1949. For railroad car labels it was

[redacted]

4. The administrative offices of the open-hearth section were in a six-story building 30 meters square, located south of the open-hearth plant. The administration building was completed in 1949. It was connected with the charging platform of the open-hearth plant by a foot bridge, 15 to 20 meters long.

5. A charging materials storage shed, called Shikhtovoy Dvor, measuring 350 x 70 x 15 meters according to the construction plan, was located on an embankment. The shed was a steel and concrete structure, had two railroad tracks and was equipped with three traveling cranes with a lift capacity of about 120 tons each.

6. About 30 meters north of the open-hearth section there was a workshop, the use of which was unknown. It measured 50 x 17 x 20 meters and was built on a hill about 15 meters above the road. The masonry of the shop was completed and it had a roof like that of the open-hearth plant.

7. The foundry, a steel and concrete structure 350 x 50 x 20 meters with a sheet metal roof, was south of the open-hearth plant. Another source reported this building as being 50 x 25 x 12 meters. The building had no windows or smokestacks but there were openings at the tops of the side walls. The floor of the hall was covered with steel molds 2 meters long, 1½ meters wide and 30 cm high. Each mold had 16 to 20 hexagonal holes about 30 cm in diameter. ** The foundry had two tracks and 3 traveling cranes with a lift capacity of 70 tons each. A storage shed filled with chamotte stones and a slag shed, called Shlakovaya, were attached to the open-hearth plant. One source reported a scrap crushing plant 30 x 30 x 15 meters located south of the foundry. Another source stated there were two scrap crushing plants, one of which had walls protected by logs. A third source reported one crushing plant building which was a steel structure subdivided by flexible walls formed of logs. This building was about 20 meters high and was open at the top.

8. One source reported that the rolling mill, a steel and brick structure measuring 500 x 300 x 25 meters, was nearing completion. Another source stated that the rolling mill was a concrete structure, 350 x 400 x 150 meters, in which two trains of rollers were being installed. One train of rollers was about 2½ meters wide and the other was somewhat wider.

9. The steel plant consisted of two workshops which were steel structures 150 x 30 meters. They were located northwest of the rolling mill. Other PWs said that workshops were chiefly equipped with British lathes. Steel crates and push carts were being manufactured there.

10. One source reported three blast furnaces at the plant. Another source observed two blast furnaces about 15 meters in diameter and 20 meters high. Both sources agreed the furnaces were not in operation by December 1949.

11. A lime plant with two tower-like kilns was under construction in the northeastern section of the plant area. One turbine was in operation in the power plant and another one was being installed. Soviet workers said that three turbines were scheduled for installation. Large quantities of dismantled German material were stored north of the two PW camps which were located in the extreme southeastern corner of the plant area. This material was used for the construction and equipment of the plant. Soviets said that manganese ore was being processed in the metallurgical plant. The deposits of this ore were not far from Rustavi near Kutaisi. 25X1

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12. One source reported that 900 to 1,000 PWs were employed on construction work at the plant, chiefly for the construction of the open-hearth section. Another source reported the following number of PWs employed for the construction of the plant: in December 1948 about 1,000, in the summer of 1949 about 200. The number of conscripted civilian workers, both male and female, was estimated at about 200, 300 and 400 for the same respective dates. According to one source, the entire construction work was supervised by a Georgian named Georgadtes, (fnu), (phonetic spelling). It was rumored among PWs that he was a cabinet minister from Tiflis. ***

25X1A * [redacted] Comment. For layout of the open-hearth section and sketch of the open-hearth furnace see Annexes 1 and 2 A.

25X1A ** [redacted] Comment. For sketch of the chills in the ingot mold department, see Annex 2 B.

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2 Annexes. 2 [redacted] sketches.

Legend:

A. Ground plan of the building.

1. Completed section, 100 x 35 meters.

a. Sheet-metal smokestack.

b. Collapsed smokestack.

c. Annex for power station, 30 x 10 x 1½ meters.

2. Half-finished section, 50 x 35 meters.

3. Proposed expansion.

B. Ground plan of completed section (Item A.1. above).

1. Smokestack.

2. Power station.

3. Collapsed smokestack.

4. Charging platform.

5. Two rows of pillars.

6. Two open-hearth furnaces.

7. Two railroad tracks, one of them below the charging platform.

C. Cross section of the completed part of the building.

1. Power station

2. Charging platform.

3. Railroad tracks.

4. Cranes under construction.

5. Furnace.

6. Air pipe.

7. Casting pit of the open-hearth furnace.

8. Two pipe lines of unknown use.

9. Skylights.

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nnex 1 to

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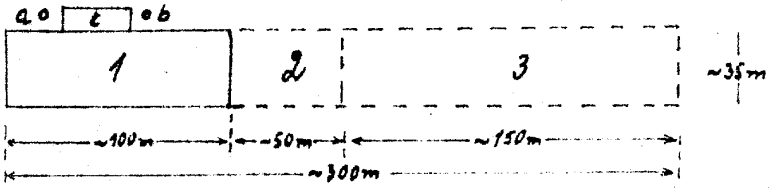
Open Hearth Department of the Metallurgical Plant near Rustavi



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Legend: See report

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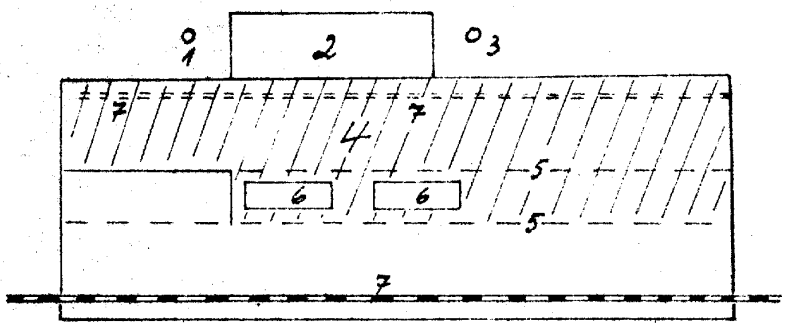
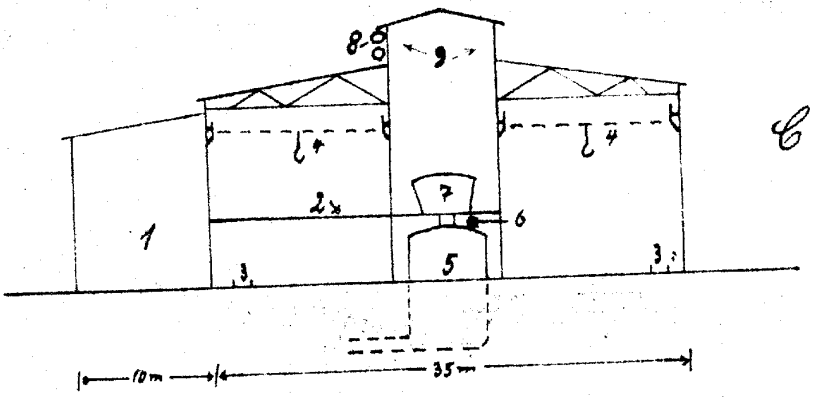


B



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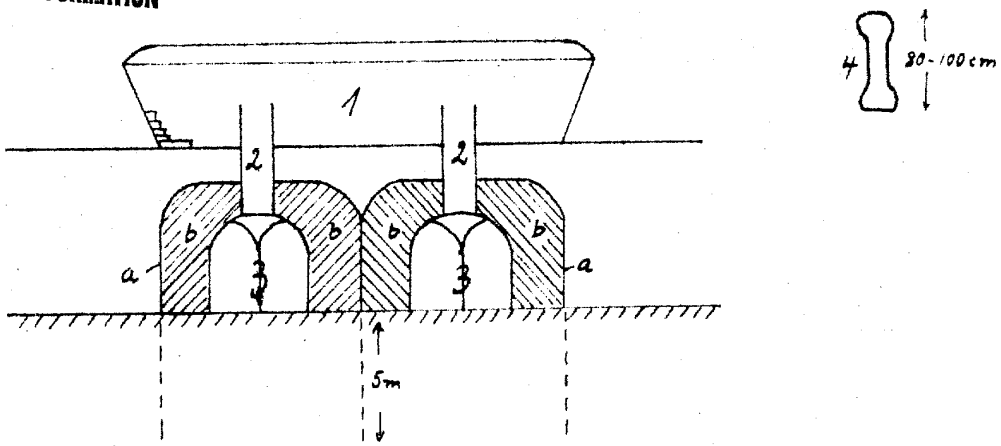

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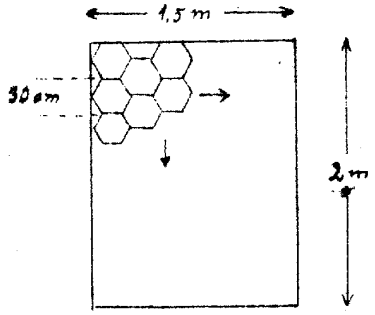

B

Legend:

A Open hearth furnace at the Metallurgical Plant near Rustevi
- 1 Casting pit
- 2 Air drains
- 3 Two furnaces
  - a Outer wall of screwed steel plates
  - b Chamotte stone walls
- 4 Tap hole

B Chills in the ingot mold department